



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Our Endangered Species Program and How It Works With Landowners



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Dr. Michael Forstner, Texas State University

Working in cooperation with public and private partners, the Endangered Species Program conserves endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Conserving endangered and threatened species is necessary to preserve our natural heritage for future generations and to maintain our quality of life. Conserving ecosystems benefits all users of ecosystem resources and is essential to maintaining our nation's long term economic prosperity. For more information, visit the Program's website at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

Our Program's priorities are:

- Conserving imperiled species
- Recovering listed species
- Providing quality customer service to Federal, State, and local governments, Tribes, and private individuals to assist them in conserving endangered species while meeting their social and economic objectives.

Endangered Species Program Elements

- Through the **Candidate Conservation** program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service),

in partnership with public agencies, private organizations, and landowners, works to reduce the threats to declining species, and thus avoid the need for listing. By acting early before a species requires ESA protection, the Service can maintain land use flexibility for landowners and reduce the costs of recovery.

- Through the **Listing** program, the Service follows Federal rulemaking procedures and specific Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements to determine whether to list a species. A formal peer review process and an opportunity for public comment ensure that the Service obtains the best available scientific information to support its decisions.

When necessary, essential habitat for species is protected through a critical habitat designation at the time of or soon after listing. Once listed, the species is afforded the full range of protections available under the ESA. These protections include prohibitions on unauthorized killing, harming, or otherwise taking a species, as well as restrictions on importing and exporting to prevent trade-related declines.

- Through the **Consultation** program, the Service works with Federal agencies as they ensure that the activities they authorize are compatible with species conservation needs. The Service also encourages Federal agencies to involve their applicants, such as private landowners and other non-Federal entities, in the consultation process including opportunities to provide information and review documents.

- Through the **Recovery** program, the Service develops partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, researchers, conservation organizations, businesses, landowners, and individuals to conserve listed

Endangered species are defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as those species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Threatened species are those species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

species. Recovery efforts include a wide range of management actions, such as controlled propagation and habitat protection and restoration, that reduce threats or otherwise benefit populations so they will stabilize and ultimately increase. A species is considered for delisting once it recovers to the point where it no longer needs the ESA's special protections.

Assistance to Landowners

Approximately half of listed species have at least 80 percent of their habitat on private lands. Thus, private landowner participation in endangered species conservation is critical to successful species recovery. Several programs provide mechanisms for increased cooperation with private landowners, Tribes, State and local governments, industry, and agricultural interests:

- The **Safe Harbor Policy** encourages voluntary management for listed species to promote recovery on non-Federal lands by giving assurances to property owners that no additional management activities will be required of them for the species.
- The **Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy** provides incentives for non-Federal property owners to conserve candidate species, thus potentially making listing unnecessary. This includes assurances that no additional management activities will be required of them even if the species becomes listed.

■ **Habitat Conservation Planning** allows private landowners to develop land supporting listed species provided they undertake conservation measures. The **No Surprises Policy** assures participating landowners that they will incur no additional mitigation requirements beyond those agreed to in their Habitat Conservation Plans, even if circumstances change.

■ **Conservation Banks** are permanently protected privately or publicly owned lands that are managed for endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species. A conservation bank is like a biological bank account. Instead of money, the bank owner has habitat or species credits to sell.

Grants Programs

■ **The Private Stewardship Program** provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. A diverse panel of representatives from State and Federal government, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community assess applications and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, who awards the grants.

■ **The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** (section 6 of the ESA) provides funding to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of conservation projects on non-Federal lands for candidate, proposed, and listed species. States and Territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species. Funding is available to implement conservation projects for listed and species at-risk (*Conservation Grants*); integrating habitat conservation into local land use planning through development of Habitat Conservation Plans (*Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants*); furthering species conservation through acquisition of land and easements associated with approved Habitat Conservation Plans

Contact Us

Want more information? Please contact the appropriate office below:

Washington D.C. Office

Endangered Species
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420
Arlington, VA 22203
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

Chief, Division of Conservation and Classification: Christine Nolin, 703-358-2171

Chief, Division of Consultation, HCPs, Recovery, and State Grants: Rick Sayers, 703-358-2171

Chief, Division of Partnerships and Outreach: Claire Cassel, 703-358-2390

Region One — Pacific

Eastside Federal Complex
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland OR 97232-4181
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Patrick Sousa, 503-231-6158

Region Two — Southwest

P.O. Box 1306, Rm 4012
Albuquerque, NM 87102
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Susan Jacobsen, 505-248-6641

Region Three — Great Lakes, Big Rivers

Bishop Henry Federal Building
One Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
http://www.fws.gov/midwest

Chief, Ecological Services Operations: T. J. Miller, 612-713-5334

Region Four — Southeast

1875 Century Boulevard
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30345
http://www.fws.gov/southeast

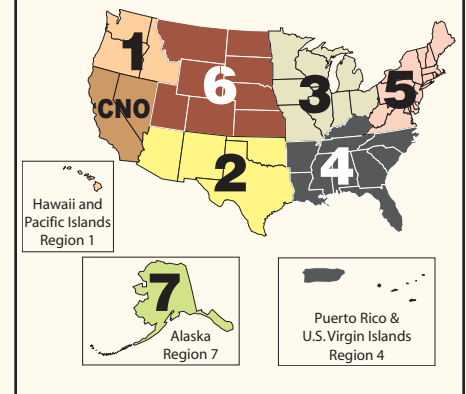
Chief, Endangered Species: Gloria Bell, 404-679-7100

(*HCP Land Acquisition Grants*); and acquiring lands essential to the recovery of listed species (*Recovery Land Acquisition Grants*).

Looking Ahead

By building strong partnerships and initiating early and collaborative conservation efforts, the Service can best achieve the purpose of the Endangered Species Act to conserve endangered and threatened species

Office Boundaries



Region Five — Northeast

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Martin Miller, 413-253-8615

Region Six — Mountain Prairie

134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood CO 80228
<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Bridget Fahey, 303-236-4258

Region Seven — Alaska

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
<http://alaska.fws.gov>

Division of Endangered Species: Michael Roy, 907-786-3925

California/Nevada Operations Office

2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2606
Sacramento, CA 95825
<http://www.fws.gov/cno/>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Michael Fris, 916-414-6464

and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

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